



# ALABAMA CENTRAL EXPRESS



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Emily E. Hodges, Governor

Tony Ledbetter, Editor

## Mobile 2016



The Mobile Marriott Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel provided a beautiful venue for Alabama Central's 2016 Annual Convention. Everyone was met with an enthusiastic and friendly staff members ready to accommodate their every need. Our meeting space was just what we needed; the hospitality room was a place for all to visit, watch the Olympics and of course, snack until they were content!

Friday evening was a mixture of business and quality fun. Immediate Past Governor Jason Harris did not fail to entertain us as he presented awards and recognitions for the 2014-2015 Civitan year. Pirates were present in number eagerly searching his slide presentation for clues to the magic phrase. Civitan themed BINGO provided the rowdy pirates with a follow-up evening of laughter and fellowship as they enjoyed the dessert bar so skillfully displayed. Had it not been for Pirate Bob's attendance the night would have not had a star! He visited several times throughout the weekend to keep the jollies going and pose for pictures. For further convention details, please go to page two.

Civitan's have "Rocked It!" for ...



Join us in celebrating!

## Congratulation to the 2016-2017 Officers and Team

Saturday morning Convention Business Session began with the election of our 2016-2017 district officers. Elected as Governor for 2016-2017 was Wendell Harless of the Irondale Club. Directors for Areas 2: Dimple Davis—Phenix City Club; Area 4: Rick Coley - Gardendale Club; and Area 6: Wilfred Fitts - Fairfield Club were elected to serve two year terms. Elected as Past Governor Director to the board was Lisa Abercrombie.

Other Team members were announced by Governor designate Harless: Mary Putman, Secretary/Policies; Edward Thomas, Treasurer; Brian Dix, Judge Advocate; Wynton Hodges, Fruit Cake and Vidalia Onions; Tony Ledbetter. PR and Social Media, Donna Harper, Web Master; John Lanier, Growth and Development; Lisa Abercrombie - Junior and Campus Civitan; Beverly and Dennis Murphy - Youth Leadership Seminar; Emily Hodges - Meetings.

We are looking for an exciting year as we work our district and join in preparation for the Civitan Centennial Convention in Birmingham in June 2017. As committees are formed, discover how you/your club might be a part, register early to take advantage of the "early" registration fee of \$100 thru November 15, 2016. We look forward to a large number of participants from all over the world. This will be a joint convention with both Junior Civitans and Civitans celebrating.

Greetings Civitan friends,

The age old question to all current officers at this time of year is “Where did the time go?”

We still have quite a ways to go on our goals for this year. Only about three weeks until a new Civitan year begins, this one falling in the dust. Our modest goals are still achievable, so let’s buckle down and make things happen with great haste. Sponsor a member at your next meeting.

Club Presidents prepare your International Honor Club applications and make sure you have dotted all the “I’s” and crossed the “T’s.” Have you sponsored a member this year? It is not too late to achieve “Honor Club of Distinction.” Challenge your members to finish strong and achieve this honor recognition for your club. Remember applications for international awards are due to Civitan International by December 1, 2016.

District awards nominations are due by **December 31st to me.**

It has been an honor to serve the Alabama Central District this year and to work with many of you, let’s do the best we can to finish out our “KEY” year in the best possible way/

**Emily Hodges**

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**Emily Hodges - Governor**

## 2016 District Convention Highlights—Continued from page one.

Saturday morning began with an extraordinary breakfast buffet followed by educational time with Past International President Randall Eckhoff on programs benefitting our foundation and philanthropies. New delegates to the convention responded with enthusiasm to the presented information. Eight new members joined the Presidents Council and received their lapel pins from Eckhoff.

The Convention Business and Elections Session followed with election of district 2016-2017 Officers to serve with Governor Designate Wendell Harless. Highlights of the 2016 Norfolk International Convention were reported. Delegates learned of the \$1.00 per month increase to International dues and the future publication of the Civitan Magazine strictly on-line. Changes to the YP structure were also announced with change to the age range and their dues structure.

A free afternoon allowed many to venture out of the hotel and sample the local seafood and other “haunts” Mobile is known for. The Installation Dinner and Ceremony was the evening program. Civitan International President Designate for 2016-2017 Duane Capps and his family were our guests for the weekend. Capps was the installing officer for the new district officers and team.

Governor Emily Hodges recognized two district Civitans with the District Honor Key. For her dedication and commitment to club growth in sponsoring 17 new members in her local club, congratulations go to Leola C. Smith of the Greater Titusville Club. The second Honor Key was presented to John L. Lanier, Past Governor in recognition and appreciation of diligence and untiring service to this district as Chair of the Growth and Retention team and his involvement in club building.

Home Clubs of the Governor and Governor-Elect exchanged club banners. Governor designate Harless presented governor Hodges with a Governor’s plaque of appreciation and the Governor’s Honor Key. Following the program, Robert Cowan entertained on the piano with several well known selections. His talents are exceptional and we appreciate his sharing this time and his talents with us.



Wynton Hodges, President, Tri County Club presents Governor’s Banner to Wendell Harless, President of Irondale Club.



**Wendell Harless,  
Governor-Elect**

WOW!!! The 2015-16 Civitan year is almost over. What a year it's been. Seems like just yesterday I was writing my first "Governor-Elect Corner".

As we head down the home stretch of our year, let's all ask friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join our wonderful organization. It would be great if each club in the Alabama Central District ended the year with a net gain in membership.

Our District Convention was held August 12-13 at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile. 50 Alabama Central Civitans attended and enjoyed fun, fellowship and getting down to the business of Civitan. Our officers and board for the 2016-17 year were elected. The awards presentation by Immediate Past Governor Jason Harris on Friday night was the best I've ever seen. 2016-17 Civitan

International President Duane Capps spoke at our Saturday morning meeting and then installed the new officers and board Saturday night. Kudos to Governor Emily Hodges and Meetings Coordinator Dee Hutsler for a well-organized, smooth running convention.

This is my last communication in the *Alabama Central Express* as your Governor-Elect. I'll be communicating in the Fall issue as your Governor. I'm a little nervous and a whole lot excited about the coming year. More on that in the next issue.

As always, I am here to serve you. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of service.

Wendell Harless

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## 2016 Claxton Fruit Cake—

### NO PRICE INCREASE!

*Wynton Hodges, Chair*

**Fruit Cake Chairs:** Time to get those lists to me for the stores your club will service this Fall. This is policy and a way of keeping up with who is serving who and where new options might be for new clubs wishing to be a part of the project.

Claxton has not raised the price for fruit cakes for this selling season, it will still be \$2.56 from them; with exception, the 48-pound shipper will increase by 0.8 cents per pound to \$2.62. **The district selling price for clubs is \$3.65 per pound.** Let me know if you need assistance or have a question. You may reach me at (205) 908-6008 or [wehodes@aol.com](mailto:wehodes@aol.com).

**Congratulations to 2015 Sales Awards Recipients:** Greatest Net Increase in Pounds Sold: Opelika  
Greatest Percentage Increase in Pounds Sold: Opelika  
Most Pounds Sold Per Member: Tri County



**Robert Cowan, Celebrated Pianist** entertained on Saturday evening at the Mobile Convention. Cowan's talents were shown as he enthralled the banquet crowd.

Robert is a member of the Montevallo Civitan Club and a coveted member of our district. Thank you Robert for your contribution to the 2016 Convention. You are a "Key" player!



### Junior Civitan Leaders for 2015-2016

Governor: Cambron Bice

PR Coordinator: Jessica Sprayberry

Lt. Governor: Gracie Kelley



### Junior Civitan Leaders for 2016-2017

Governor: Jessica Sprayberry

Deputy Governor: Cambron Bice

PR Coordinator: Gracie Kelley

Lt. Governor: Carter Kampakis

Secretary: Vuga Papura

Historian: Katie Ledbetter

Sergeant at Arms: Campbell Woods

Chaplain: Marie Harris

Social Media: Ethan Fooshee

**Congratulations** to Cambron Bice on his election as President of the Junior Civitan International Board at the June 2016 Junior Civitan International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. The new Junior Civitan year began on July 1.

## Junior Civitans ~ Lisa Abercrombie, Junior Chair



The 2015-2016 Alabama Central District Junior Civitan year has completed another successful year. Our district worked hard and finished with a strong push. Here are a few of the highlights.....

In April we held our annual district convention on the sunny beaches in Fort Walton Beach, FL. Our theme was "Catch A Wave" and they did so by doing two service projects: making over 200 cards for the Children's Hospital in Birmingham and collecting art supplies, beads, and comic books for The Arc of the Emerald Coast. During the convention everyone got to hear the status of our district and clubs, played games, and soaked up some sun rays. We were pleased to have Governor-Elect Wendell Harless with us to install our new Governor, Jesse Sprayberry, and the District Team and Board. They ended their convention with a tacky beach theme attire dance and everyone had a blast.

We were pleased to have 6 Junior Civitans attend the Junior Civitan International Convention in Atlanta, GA in June. The attendees attended many workshops pertaining to their respective offices and learned a lot. They also got to meet many new Junior Civitans from throughout North America. They also participated in a service project where they cleaned a trail in the park area and walked up Stone Mountain. Some even got to visit the Coca Cola Museum. The Alabama Central Junior Civitan District received two awards during the weekend: Largest Overall Growth in Membership 2015-2016 and Honor Club of Distinction. Emily Hodges was awarded one of the highest and most distinguished awards for her dedication and service to Junior Civitan; she was inducted into the Junior Civitan International Hall Of Fame. We had several of our clubs, Alexander City Middle School, JCIB, and Mountain Brook High School, receive certificates for their participation in Collection Selection, Social Cause Awareness, and Environmental Awareness. The biggest highlight of the convention was Cambron Bice election and installation as the 44<sup>th</sup> Junior Civitan International President. Overall everyone had a great time, made lots of new friends, learned some great things they can take back to their clubs, and mostly energized to start the new year of Junior Civitan.

We close our year with many great accomplishments, awards, and honors which I am so proud and excited about. We have ten clubs currently and working on others. We had four clubs with a 10% increase in membership: Auburn High School, Alexander City Middle School, Benjamin Russell High School, and Jones Valley Middle School. We added two new clubs this year, JCIB and Mountain Brook High School. We ended our year with a plus 77 in membership – started with 246 – ended with 323. We held our district officer training in August and got the year planned with exciting things and setting goals and getting "Rooted In Service". We will have our club advisor and officer training on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at the Shelby County Library.

These accomplishments could not be possible with the help of all our clubs, Junior Civitans, Advisors, Civitans, and our great district. Thank you so very much for all of your support to the Alabama Central Junior Civitan District and Junior Civitan. All of us have **"Let Your Service Shine!"**



**2016-2017 Junior Civitan District Officers:** (L to R) Campbell Woods, Sergeant at Arms; Cambron Bice, Deputy Governor; Gracie Kelley, Public Relations; Jesse Sprayberry, Governor; Katie Ledbetter, Historian; with Wendell Harless, Civitan Governor-Elect Not shown are: Carter Kampakis, Lt. Governor; Vuga Papura, Secretary; Ethan Fooshee, Social Media; Marie Harris, Chaplain.